

COPY

ARLENE P. MESSINGER
Assistant General Counsel for SBIC Enforcement
U.S. Small Business Administration
Receiver for Prospero Ventures, L.P.
409 Third Street, S.W., 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20416
Telephone: (202) 205-6857
Facsimile: (202) 481-0325

**ORIGINAL
FILED**

JUL 19 2007

RICHARD W. WIEKING
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
OAKLAND

DARRYL J. HOROWITT #100898
CHRISTINE J. LEVIN #192181
COLEMAN & HOROWITT, LLP
Attorneys at Law
499 West Shaw, Suite 116
Fresno, California 93704
Telephone: (559) 248-4820
Facsimile: (559) 248-4830

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

OAKLAND DIVISION

JL

U.S. SMALL BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION, as Receiver for
PROSPERO VENTURES, L.P.,

Plaintiff(s),

v.

HIGH GROWTH MANAGEMENT, LTD.,

Defendant(s).

**NO
07-03735**

**COMPLAINT FOR BREACH OF
PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT AND
DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY**

Related Case:
Civil No: C 04-4351 SBA
Hon. Sandra Brown Armstrong

Plaintiff, U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, as Receiver for PROSPERO
VENTURES, L.P. ("PROSPERO"), alleges:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. Pursuant to the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, as amended (the "Act"),
15 U.S.C. §§ 687 and 687h, and pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 754 and 1367, this Court has
jurisdiction over this action, which is ancillary to the receivership proceeding, *United States of*

1 *America v. Prospero Ventures, L.P.*, Case No. C 04-4351, Judge Brown Armstrong, currently
2 pending before this Court. This is an action for money judgment and for such other and further
3 relief as this Court deems just and proper.

4 2. Venue is proper in the Northern District of California, Oakland Division, as this
5 action is ancillary to the receivership proceedings referred to in paragraph 2, above, and pursuant
6 to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) in that a substantial part of the events and omissions giving rise to the
7 claims occurred in this district.

8 PARTIES

9 3. The U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION ("SBA") is an Agency of the
10 United States of America with its principal offices at 409 Third Street, S.W., Washington, DC
11 20416. By Order entered October 20, 2004 (the "Receivership Order"), this Court appointed the
12 SBA as Receiver for PROSPERO ("Receiver"), and in that capacity maintains offices in
13 Washington, DC. On April 13, 2007, this Court entered its Order (the "Lift Stay Order") lifting
14 the judicial stay imposed by the Receivership Order and authorized the Receiver to commence
15 this action. Plaintiff brings this suit solely in its capacity as Receiver for PROSPERO.

16 4. PROSPERO is a California Limited Partnership. It maintained its last principal
17 office and principal place of business at 870 Market Street, Suite 1040, San Francisco, California
18 94102, within this District. On September 29, 1999, PROSPERO (formerly known as Dotcom
19 Ventures, L.P., formerly known as ASCII Ventures, L.P.) was licensed by SBA as a small
20 business investment company ("SBIC") pursuant to § 301(c) of the Act, 15 U.S.C. § 681(c),
21 solely to do business under the provisions of the Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

22 5. Upon information and belief, defendant HIGH GROWTH MANAGEMENT,
23 LTD. is a foreign corporation with its principal office located at Hong Kong, and is not a
24 permanent resident of the United States, and irrevocably appointed Mr. Jerald P. Shaevitz,
25 residing at Los Altos Hills, California, as its agent within the United States to receive service of
26 process on its behalf in connection with the enforcement of the obligation of the defendant to
27 make capital contributions to the PROSPERO Partnership, or otherwise in connection with
28 defendant's subscription to contribute capital to the PROSPERO Partnership or the defendant's

investment or other participation in the PROSPERO Partnership as a limited partner.

FACTS

6. On or about April 1, 1999, PROSPERO and defendant entered into a written partnership agreement (hereinafter "the Prior Agreement").

7. On or about September 10, 1999, PROSPERO and defendant entered into an Amended & Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership for Dotcom Ventures, L.P. (formerly ASCII Ventures, L.P.) a California Limited Partnership, now known as PROSPERO (hereinafter "the Partnership Agreement"). A true and correct copy of the Partnership Agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and made a part hereof. The Partnership Agreement amended the Prior Agreement.

8. The Partnership Agreement was signed on September 10, 1999, by the General Partner of PROSPERO "... on behalf of itself and each of the persons listed as limited partners ... to the Partnership's Amended and Restated Limited Partnership Agreement dated as of April 1, 1999 (the 'Prior Agreement')." Defendant is a signatory limited partner to the Prior Agreement. A true copy of the signature page containing defendant's execution as a limited partner is attached hereto as Exhibit "B" and made a part hereof.

9. Paragraph 1.6 of the Partnership Agreement, Capital Commitment, states "A Partner's Capital Commitment shall mean the amount that such Partner has agreed to contribute to the capital of the Partnership as set forth opposite such Partner's name on Exhibit A hereto."

10. Pursuant to Exhibit A, Capital Commitments, to the Partnership Agreement, defendant committed to contribute \$124,752 to the PROSPERO Partnership.

11. The books and records maintained by PROSPERO which are in the possession of the Receiver indicate that the defendant has paid only one-half, \$62,376, of its capital commitment, and that the remaining one-half is unpaid.

12. On or about November 10, 2004, plaintiff notified defendant that PROSPERO had been ordered into receivership, that the SBA had been appointed Receiver of PROSPERO, and that the Receiver had taken over the control of the assets and operations of PROSPERO. A copy of the Receivership Order was enclosed with the letter. A true copy of the Receiver's letter is

attached hereto as Exhibit "C" and incorporated by reference herein.

13. On or about May 9, 2005, plaintiff demanded payment of defendant's unfunded capital commitment in full by June 17, 2005. A true copy of this letter is attached hereto as Exhibit "D" and incorporated by reference herein.

14. Paragraph 5.7(b)(i) of the Partnership Agreement provides that a Defaulting Partner shall pay interest on the amount of its capital contribution then due to the Partnership "... at an interest rate equal to the floating commercial rate of interest publicly announced by Bank of America, San Francisco, California, as its prime rate plus four percent (4%) per annum, such interest to accrue from the date the contribution to the Partnership was required to be made ... until the date the contribution is made ...".

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

**(Against Defendant HIGH GROWTH MANAGEMENT, LTD.
for Breach of Partnership Agreement)**

15. Plaintiff realleges paragraphs 1 through 14 as though fully set forth herein.

16. Defendant has breached the Partnership Agreement by failing to pay the required capital contribution despite demand.

17. As a result of defendant's breach of the Partnership Agreement, defendant is indebted to plaintiff in the sum of \$71,450.26, as of November 30, 2006, together with interest in an amount according to proof.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff prays for judgment against defendant as follows:

1. For damages in the sum of \$71,450.26;
2. For interest thereon at the rate of 10% per annum in an amount according to proof;
3. For costs of suit incurred herein; and,
4. For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

Dated: July 17, 2007

COLEMAN & HOROWITT, LLP

By: 

DARRYL J. HOROWITT
Attorneys for Plaintiff

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff hereby demands trial by jury in the above-captioned matter.

Dated: July 17, 2007

COLEMAN & HOROWITT, LLP

By: 

DARRYL J. HOROWITT
Attorneys for Plaintiff,
U.S. SMALL BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION, as Receiver for
PROSPERO VENTURES, L.P.